Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1.-38. (canceled).

Claim 39. (previously presented) A method for processing invoices submitted by sellers to buyers, comprising:

using a server in a transaction processing system, maintaining buyer accounts and seller accounts for the buyers and the sellers respectively; and

using the server, maintaining a plurality of terms and conditions relating to the buyers, the sellers, issuers and acquirers;

with respect to each invoice, performing the following:

identifying the involved buyer, seller, issuer and acquirer;

determining one or more fees based on portions of the plurality of terms and conditions relating to the involved buyer, seller, issuer and acquirer;

calculating a net amount using the transaction fee;

obtaining payment authorization from the involved issuer; and

upon obtaining the payment authorization, settling payment of the invoice between the involved issuer and acquirer,

wherein the transaction processing system comprises a variable pricing matrix, which calculates one or more transaction fees based on a set of pre-negotiated terms and conditions agreed to by at least the issuer and the acquirer.

Claims 40.-41. (canceled).

Claim 42. (original) The method of claim 39 further comprising:

upon settling payment of the invoices, updating the buyer accounts and the seller accounts.

Claim 43. (previously presented) A method of conducting a transaction between a buyer and a seller, the method comprising:

receiving an electronic invoice or an instruction to create the electronic invoice from the seller at a transaction processing system;

transmitting a payment instruction from the transaction processing system to the buyer;

receiving approval from the buyer in response to the sent payment instruction at the transaction processing system;

after receiving the approval from the buyer, sending an authorization request to an issuer;

after sending the authorization request, receiving an authorization response from the issuer at the transaction processing system, wherein funds are thereafter transferred from the issuer to an acquirer using a payment processing network; and

updating a status of the electronic invoice with information regarding whether the invoice has been settled or declined.

Claim 44. (canceled).

Claim 45. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the transaction processing system comprises a payment manager that keeps track of the status of each invoice or payment transaction.

Claim 46. (canceled).

Claim 47. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the payment instruction is created based on terms and conditions that were previously negotiated by the buyer and the seller.

Claim 48. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein after receiving approval from the buyer, goods are shipped from the seller to the buyer.

Claim 49. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the transaction processing system is associated with a credit card association.

Claim 50. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the payment instruction is sent in accordance with terms or conditions set by the buyer, the seller, or the buyer and the seller.

Claim 51. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the transaction processing system provides for a variable fee schedule.

Claim 52. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the transaction processing system provides for a fee, depending on a value of the transaction conducted between the buyer and the seller.

Claim 53. (previously presented) A system for conducting a transaction between a buyer and a seller, the system comprising:
a transaction processing system, wherein the transaction processing system is in communication with a buyer and a seller, and wherein the transaction processing system comprises an invoice preprocessor and a payment manager; and
a data transport and processing network coupled to the transaction processing system, wherein the data transport and processing network is in communication with an issuer,

wherein the transaction processing system comprises an issuer pricing engine, wherein the issuer pricing engine is configured to determine a transaction fee associated with an invoice associated with the transaction, the issuer retaining at least a portion of the transaction fee.

Claim 54. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the data transport and processing network facilitates interaction between various buyers and sellers.

Claim 55. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the transaction processing system includes an authorization and settlement interface.

Claim 56. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the transaction processing system further comprises a database including invoices with terms and conditions.

Claim 57. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the transaction processing system comprises a database comprising a table including transaction fees that are assessed depending upon terms and conditions in invoices.

Claim 58. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the transaction processing system comprises a variable pricing matrix, which calculates one or more transaction fees based on a set of pre-negotiated terms and conditions agreed to by at least the issuer and an acquirer associated with the seller.

Claim 59. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the transaction processing system creates or receives invoices from sellers.

Claim 60. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the transaction processing system is configured to create a settlement file for the transaction between the buyer and the seller.

Claim 61. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein the transaction processing system is configured to create a settlement file for the transaction between the buyer and the seller and wherein the settlement file includes information regarding the cost of goods sold.

Claims 62.-66. (canceled)

Claim 67. (previously presented) The system of claim 54 wherein the transaction processing system includes an authorization and settlement interface.

Claim 68. (previously presented) The system of claim 67 wherein the transaction processing system further comprises a database including invoices with terms and conditions.

Claim 69. (previously presented) The system of claim 68 wherein the transaction processing system comprises a database comprising a table including transaction fees that are assessed depending upon terms and conditions in invoices.

Claim 70. (previously presented) The system of claim 69 wherein the transaction processing system comprises a variable pricing matrix, which calculates one or more transaction fees based on a set of pre-negotiated terms and conditions agreed to by at least the issuer and an acquirer associated with the seller.

Claim 71. (previously presented) The system of claim 70 wherein the transaction processing system creates or receives invoices from sellers.

Claim 72. (canceled).

Claim 73. (previously presented) The system of claim 72 wherein the settlement file includes information regarding the cost of goods sold.

Claim 74. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the payment processing network is a data transport and processing network.

Claim 75. (previously presented) The method of claim 74 wherein the method further comprises creating and transmitting multiple payment instructions for the electronic invoice.

Claim 76. (previously presented) The method of claim 74 wherein the transaction processing system comprises an invoice preprocessor and a payment manager.